

This email provides you with current information about ministries of Center for Mission Support -- energizing and equipping local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

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Five Star Mission Awards

**** APPLICATION IS OPEN! ****

The Five Star Award for Missional Involvement is a Central Texas Conference initiative designed to serve as a starting point for risk-taking mission and service by recognizing United Methodist churches that achieve a foundational level of engagement with the needs of the world during a calendar year.

Go [HERE](#) to see list of required qualifications and application link.



Early Response Teams (**ERT**) are specially trained teams that offer assistance soon after a disaster strikes. They generally do cleanup work and tasks required to stop further damage from being done, e.g. putting tarps on damaged roofs. All members of an Early Response Team are required to complete the eight-hour training course and must be MinistrySafe. The ERT training is done according to UMCOR guidelines and policies.

If you are interested, please check out the classes that are being offered below.

Early Response Training Opportunities

Basic Classes:

- Saturday, Jan. 20th 9am-5pm at FUMC Mansfield
- Saturday, January 27th 9am - 5pm at FUMC Fort Worth

Advanced/Recertification:

- Saturday, Jan. 20th 9am - 1pm at FUMC Mansfield

[More information and registration available HERE.](#)

More classes will be scheduled soon in our other districts!



ERT (Early Response Teams) Needed!

DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATE - God's Love in Action!

The Central Texas Conference is already making a difference for people whose lives were upended by the 2017 hurricanes. The generosity and love of the CTCUMC was on full display as hundreds of people took Early Response Team (ERT) training after the hurricanes of 2017, people put together thousands of hygiene kits and cleaning buckets, and teams went to the Gulf Coast to help survivors begin to recover.

The Rio Texas Conference remains our priority. As the country's attention moved from Harvey to Irma to Maria and then to the horrific wildfires in California, the numbers of teams going to the Texas gulf coast has declined significantly. They remain in desperate need of our help.

For ERTs, now is the time to pull together a team of ERTs from your neighboring churches or to join an established team. Rio Texas is also open to receiving teams for rebuilding. This would be an outstanding adult or youth mission trip.

FUNDS AVAILABLE! People of our Conference have also given generously to support Harvey recovery. Because of this generosity, we can provide funding for teams as they head south to work. Please don't let funding be the obstacle that keeps your team from responding to Hurricane Harvey. Because of the generosity of our Conference, we can subsidize building materials and supplies. Contact [Ginger Watson](#) for more information.

Tarrant County Evacuees Blessed by CTCUMC! Approximately 200 people chose to stay in Tarrant County after evacuating their homes because of Hurricane Harvey. We have been working closely with Catholic Charities and other partners to help these families get back on their feet. Because of the generosity of the CTCUMC, 40 families received the furniture that they needed to start again. The First Street Mission of FUMC Fort Worth provided start-up kits that supplied the families with towels, bedding, kitchen essentials and other basic needs.

Puerto Rico Receiving Specialized Early Response Teams. As Puerto Rico continues to respond to the devastation of Hurricane Maria, they have reached a point at which certain teams can come to help. They are looking for very experienced teams who are skilled with tarping, and who can stabilize windows and doors. At this stage, they want to make it possible for families to shelter in place at their homes until rebuilding can begin, which may be as much as a year away. This will be physically demanding work. Electricity is not reliable and the conditions are very primitive.

If you have a team of experienced, badged ERTs and want to know more about helping in Puerto Rico, please contact [Ginger Watson](#). She will be the point person for our Conference.

Are YOU NOT AN ERT yet?!! Then go [HERE](#) to sign up now or to watch for additional trainings going on in 2018.

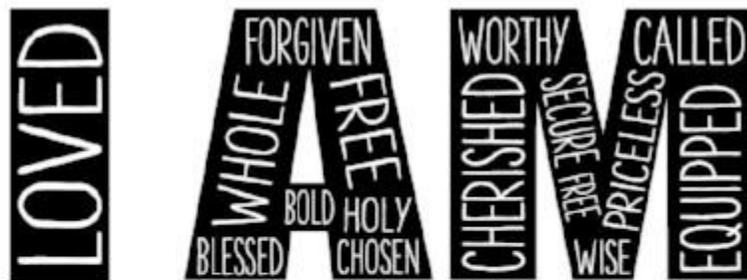


West District- MinistrySafe Overview Workshop

Saturday, February 10th at FUMC Eastland from 9am - Noon

Registration is through the West District Office.

This overview workshop will be helpful for any new SSAs, Pastors, or staff/volunteers who work with young people. Topics will include the Central Texas MinistrySafe policy, screening process, and online dashboard.



MID-WINTER 2018

Individual Registration for both sessions of the February Mid-Winter Youth Retreats is open! It may seem a long way off, but it is really just around the corner! Please encourage the participants to register early, both to take advantage of the Early Bird rate, and to guarantee a cabin spot. Registration

may close early if capacity is reached. Early Bird Registration for Mid-Winter 1 closes on Friday, Jan. 12th, and Early Bird Registration for Mid-Winter 2 closes on Friday, Jan. 26th!

Also, if your group has not completed Group Registration, please complete the brief (free) registration form. More information, and links to registration, may be found at <http://www.ctcumc.org/midwinter2018>.



Individual Registration for CTCYM summer mission trips is now open! Please visit www.ctcym.org and click the “Individual Registration” button. You may select from the following trips:

- Senior High Trip to New Mexico: June 17-23, 2018
- Combination Trip (Sr./Jr. High) to New Mexico: June 17-23, 2018
- Junior High Trip to South East Texas: July 15-20, 2018
- Combination Trip (Sr./Jr. High) to South East Texas: July 15-20, 2018

Important! If you, or someone in your group, wishes to serve in a Living Center Leadership role, it is vital that the application (a required step) be completed as soon as possible, as leadership teams are being assembled now. The leadership application may be found on the [“For Leadership”](#) page; scroll down to the

Application for Leadership, and select which trip for which you wish to apply. If you desire to serve on both trips, please complete an application for both June and July.

Group Leader Training will be held:

- 7pm, Tuesday January 16th at Burleson FUMC
- 7pm, Tuesday, January 23rd at Belton FUMC
- 1pm, Saturday, January 27th at Hillsboro FUMC

We invite you to visit www.ctcym.org to read more about CTCYM. Please feel free to contact [Claire Condrey](#) in the Conference Service Center if you have any questions.



Project Transformation had an amazing first summer in the Central Texas Conference with 20 interns serving 169 kids at three host churches. Thanks to the

help of our volunteers who read with the children, 88% of regular attendees maintained or improved their reading skills over the summer. We are building on the success of our first summer and **recruiting interns for summer 2018**. Qualified applicants need to have finished their first year of college and be prepared to spend a summer serving, growing, and playing. Interns are paid \$2,000, receive free housing and meals. To learn more and to apply online visit:

<https://projecttransformation.org/central-texas/our-programs/college-internships/>



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Please be sure that we have the most updated information for those doing mission ministry at your church. To update information for mission ministry, please email Sheryl Crumrine, CTC Mission Support Assistant, at sheryl@ctcumc.org.

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